



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7722
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Jeff Milanovich (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7982
Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN MAY 2003

Natural soda ash production in May was 926,000 metric tons (t), about 7% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 298,000 t, 27% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May was 1.34 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April was 545,000 t, about 6% higher than the April 2002 level of 515,000 t. Exports

and imports of soda ash in April 2003 were 350,000 t and 784 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through April 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 27% lower, exports 10% higher, ending stocks 16% higher, and apparent consumption 3% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2002:			
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Total (January-May)	4,260	XX	6,630
Year total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
March	897	263	1,410
April	865	234	1,320
May	926	298	1,340
Total	4,380	XX	6,780

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN APRIL 2003^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	52,500	\$5,870	\$112
Belgium	35,900	4,250	118
Canada	33,700	2,500	74
Chile	32,600	4,670	143
Venezuela	26,600	3,750	141
Brazil	26,400	3,860	147
Korea, Republic of	23,000	2,380	104
Japan	18,500	1,970	107
Taiwan	17,500	1,970	113
Australia	17,000	1,870	110
Other	65,900	8,170	124
Total	350,000	41,300	118

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total	% of total
Argentina	11,000	--	26,000	11,300	48,300	3
Australia	27,400	6,600	38	17,000	51,100	4
Bahamas, The	--	--	9	--	9	(3)
Belgium	16,300	15,500	4,850	35,900	72,600	5
Belize	--	--	--	18	18	(3)
Brazil	32,000	--	28,200	26,400	86,600	6
Canada	38,100	29,800	38,500	33,700	140,000	10
Chile	10	36,400	--	32,600	69,000	5
China	37,900	18,300	38,300	--	94,400	7
Colombia	12,400	11,500	10,600	--	34,500	2
Costa Rica	--	3,000	2,990	49	6,040	(3)
Ecuador	4,500	--	--	--	4,500	(3)
Finland	--	--	17	--	17	(3)
France	7,500	--	9,950	--	17,500	1
Guatemala	--	3,000	2,970	--	5,970	(3)
Indonesia	17,200	14,500	31,900	--	63,600	4
Italy	--	--	--	16	16	(3)
Japan	41,700	26,200	35,300	18,500	122,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,800	15,500	20,000	23,000	72,300	5
Malaysia	--	16,500	10,000	5,000	31,500	2
Mexico	53,500	52,100	34,300	52,500	192,000	13
Netherlands	10,000	--	10,200	--	20,200	1
Netherlands Antilles	11	--	--	--	11	(3)
Nigeria	--	--	3,430	--	3,430	(3)
Panama	--	1,500	--	--	1,500	(3)
Peru	--	3,000	--	4,800	7,800	1
Philippines	8,500	8,000	--	8,000	24,500	2
Portugal	--	--	--	10,000	10,000	1
Russia	--	--	--	8	8	(3)
Saudi Arabia	14,000	--	16,000	--	30,000	2
South Africa	650	8,900	6,520	--	16,100	1
Spain	15,000	25,000	--	10,900	50,900	4
Taiwan	9,790	13,300	15,000	17,500	55,600	4
Thailand	20,000	10,000	8,400	13,000	51,400	4
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	2,800	2,800	(3)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	6,000	(3)
United Kingdom	6,250	--	--	--	6,250	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	16,000	26,600	42,600	3
Vietnam	150	8,100	--	--	8,250	1
Total	398,000	327,000	375,000	350,000	1,450,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2002:		
April	1,110	\$221
May	991	216
June	639	118
July	779	181
August	538	152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total (January-April)	3,170	656
Year total	9,020	2,000
2003:		
January	615	135
February	375	133
March	540	165
April	784	145
Total	2,310	578

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2002:						
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	1,020	332,000	--	14,700	554,000
November	877,000	666	430,000	--	12,100	460,000
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total (January-April)	3,350,000	3,170	1,320,000	--	23,900	2,060,000
Year total	10,500,000	9,020	4,250,000	--	4,620	6,230,000
2003:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	375	327,000	--	27,200	521,000
March	897,000	540	375,000	11,500	--	510,000
April	865,000	784	350,000	--	28,300	545,000
May	926,000	NA	NA	63,900	--	NA
January-April	3,450,000	2,310	1,450,000	12,600	--	1,990,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.